



FOR RELEASE

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## Job Count in Rhode Island Edges Up for Second Month in a Row

### The Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, announced today that Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 5.1 percent, unchanged from February. The number of unemployed

	<u>Mar. 06</u>	<u>Feb. 06</u>	<u>Mar. 05</u>
Rhode Island	5.1%	5.1%	5.0%*
United States	4.7%	4.8%	5.1%*
* Revised			

Rhode Island residents edged up by 300 over the month to 29,300 in March. A year ago, the jobless level was 28,300 and the State's unemployment rate stood at 5.0 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate for March inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.7 percent. Compared to last year, the national jobless rate is down 0.4 of a percentage point. Rhode Island's unemployment rate for March was above the national average.

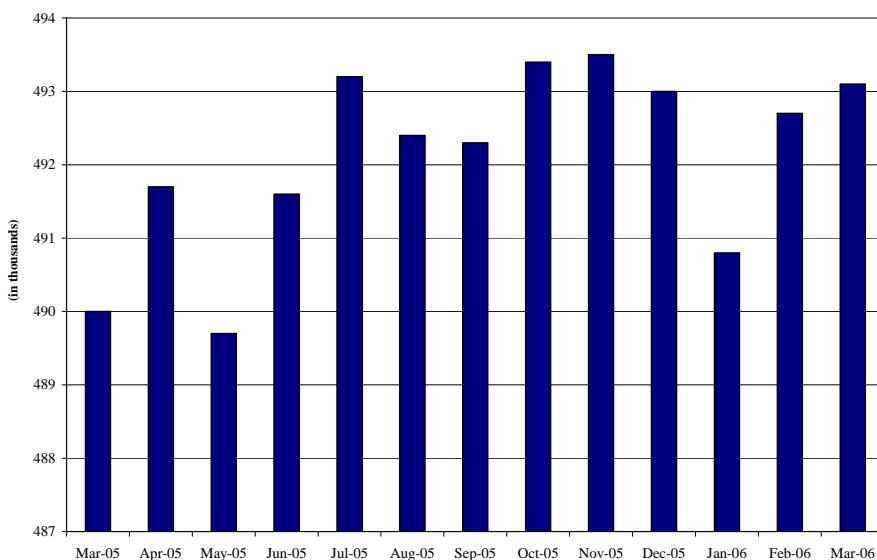
Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 400 (+0.1%) last month, bringing the March job count to 493,100 (seasonally adjusted). Slight job growth was reported in several economic sectors including Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+400), Financial Activities (+200), Educational & Health Services (+200), Leisure & Hospitality (+200) and Manufacturing (+100).

"Labor market conditions in Rhode Island showed little change in March. Our unemployment rate held steady, while the overall job count showed a modest increase with small gains spread among several industry sectors," said Director Orefice. "With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, we're optimistic that employers will begin adding workers to their payrolls."

The Professional & Business Services sector reported a drop of 400 jobs in March, due mainly to smaller-than-usual gains in Administrative & Waste Services. A decline of 300 positions in the Government sector is attributed to employment losses at the Local level. Minor losses were also noted in Construction (-100) and Other Services (-100).

Over the year, total employment was up 3,100 (+0.6%) from the 490,000 jobs reported in March 2005. Annual employment growth occurred in the Educational & Health Services (+2,300), Financial Activities (+1,600), Construction (+1,500), and Professional & Business Services (+1,400) sectors, offsetting over-the-year losses in Manufacturing (-2,000), Other Services (-800), Leisure & Hospitality (-400), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-200), and Government (-100).

**Rhode Island Seasonally Adjusted Establishment Employment**  
March 2005 to March 2006



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www.dlt.ri.gov

Governor Donald L. Carcieri



Director Adelita S. Orefice

## SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

(in thousands)

	<u>Mar-06</u>	<u>Feb-06</u>	<u>Mar-05</u>	Net Change From	
				<u>Feb-06</u>	<u>Mar-05</u>
<b>Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>493.1</b>	<b>492.7</b>	<b>490.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Construction	22.7	22.8	21.2	-0.1	1.5
Manufacturing	53.9	53.8	55.9	0.1	-2.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.0	79.6	80.2	0.4	-0.2
Financial Activities	35.7	35.5	34.1	0.2	1.6
Professional & Business Services	56.2	56.6	54.8	-0.4	1.4
Educational & Health Services	96.5	96.3	94.2	0.2	2.3
Leisure & Hospitality	50.1	49.9	50.5	0.2	-0.4
Other Services	22.7	22.8	23.5	-0.1	-0.8
Government	64.9	65.2	65.0	-0.3	-0.1

*Note: Data may not be additive due to the exclusion of certain industry sectors from the seasonal adjustment process.*

### Hours and Earnings

In March 2006, the \$13.46 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly gain of twelve cents per hour and an over-the-year gain of forty-seven cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.0 hours per week in March, up 0.1 of an hour over the month and 1.1 hours since March 2005.

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*Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Data may not be additive and are subject to revision.*

*The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state.*

*The establishment employment figures are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state.*

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**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi](http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi)**

**The April labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, May 19, 2006.**

#### ***Equal Opportunity Employer/Program***

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD (401) 462-8006